



Big Emory

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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Dear Family of Churches,

By the time you read this article, some of our churches will have finished their 2009 Vacation Bible School. Others will follow throughout the summer. Whatever date you have chosen, I pray it will be your best VBS yet. Some 25-28% of baptisms in our Southern Baptist Church come as a direct result of VBS. Be sure to send your reports at the close of your school. Thank you for loving boys and girls and being willing to take the time to share the gospel and help train them in the way they should go. May God bless you for all this and more.

Be sure to read the note about this year's annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Louisville, KY June 23-24. It's not only close by, but I believe it's going to be one of the best.

If your church has boys and girls going to the Journey Camps for kids at Carson Springs in Newport on July 20-24, perhaps you may want to sponsor one of them. In today's economy, there may be a child who would like to go, but cannot afford it.

Let me thank you in advance for the offerings taken on Father's Day for the Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes. It is their most valued source of ministry support for the year. And also, I thank God for all our Dads and pray they have a "Happy Father's Day."

Thank you for your faithfulness even in these trying times. Someone has said, "Difficult circumstances are the platform on which God reveals His supernatural ways." The question is, how will we respond? I'm encouraged that our churches continue to operate with an open door policy. A policy that says, "we're still in business, we're still praying, giving, sharing, witnessing, ministering and looking for God to bless." Today's challenges are great, but our God is greater!

God bless each one of you.

Bro. Mason

The following is information gleaned from a recent article in the *ABA Journal*

Facts: 1) There are 62 million fathers in these United States. 2) The United States leads the world in fatherless homes — 25 million children live in homes without their fathers. 3) Seventy two percent of Americans consider fatherlessness to be the most significant family problem facing our country.



God not only made a man and a woman to produce a child, but He greatly desires that man and woman to raise that child. Too many pews are filled with women and children without their dads. Many dads want to say church is

the wife's job, but according to God's Word they are wrong. Mom's cannot do it alone, it must be done in partnership with Dads.

One of the greatest things a father can give his child is himself and his time. And not only at home, but also in church. So Dads if you haven't been going, I pray you'll go to church June 21, 2009, as a family, and have a Happy Father's Day. Then keep it up all year long. God bless all our Fathers!

Many of our churches will be receiving a Father's Day Offering for the Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes which is a very worthy cause. Thank you so much!

TENNESSEE BAPTIST
**Adult
Homes**

Church News:

The **Union Baptist Church** Youth Group will be camping out at the Oakdale Children's Home June 8-12, 2009 and will do maintenance projects there at the home. Union Baptist Church will do house repair, yard work, backyard Bible club and door-to-door witnessing in Garrett, KY the week of June 21-27. They will also take a load of food and clothes as they go.

Potter's House Fellowship will sponsor a Golf Tournament at Lakeside Golf Course in Kingston at 8 a.m. on Saturday, June 20, 2009. Deadline to sign up is Monday, June 15th. Call Randall Marsee at 865.776.6922 if you plan to participate. Cost is \$100 per person and the proceeds will support Upcoming Mission Trip.

Central Baptist Church in Kingston will have their Vacation Bible School July 8-11, 2009.

Petros Baptist Church will have their Vacation Bible School July 20-24, 2009 from 6-9 p.m. each evening.

The **First Baptist Church in Lenoir City** is now the location of the East Tennessee Extension Center of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, headquartered in Louisville, KY. You may contact Rev. Jeff Bowden at 865.986.9066 or jeff@firstbaptistlc.org for more information.

Southern Baptist Convention

When Johnny Hunt, our current SBC president, was elected he shared some things that he hoped to see changed during his term. One was, the declining attendance at our annual meetings.

Come June 23-24 we will have the opportunity to help bring that change about. I want to encourage every pastor and lay person who possible can to attend this year's convention in Louisville, KY. There's still time to make reservations, or some are driving up for just one day. Call a friend to go with you and start making plans today.

Please call the BEBA office at 865.882.6446 if we can assist you in any way.

If your church has a website that is not linked to the BEBA website and you would like to be, contact Jim West at jwest@highland.net.

Journey Camps for Kids, TBC. A week long experience at Carson Springs in Newport for children who have completed 3rd - 6th grades on July 20-24, 2009. More info? Visit www.tnbaptist.org or call the BEBA office.

Youth News - "Summer Nights for Youth"

July 8, 2009 at the Kingston Community Center from 8-10 p.m. will be a night of fun, fellowship, praise and worship for all youth in our Big Emory Association churches and their friends. There is no cost to the youth. It's our prayer that this event will be helpful as we all look forward to a summer of outreach and discipleship with our youth. For more information you may call Kevin Sellars, Minister of Youth at Trenton Street Baptist Church or e-mail Kevinsellars@comcast.net. You may also want to ask Kevin about their periodic meetings for Youth Leaders. God bless you with great summer nights and days as you work with that wonderful group called Youth!

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES:

Regular BEBA Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Lunch 12 noon – 1 p.m.

Prayer Time at the BEBA Office every Wednesday at 8 a.m.

Storehouse Ministry Center – 423.346.5267

Check out our website: www.beba.ws.

- June 21 - Father's Day! TBCAdult Home Offering
- June 22-24 - Southern Baptist Convention – Louisville, Kentucky
- July 1 - Minister's Conference, 10:30 a.m.
- July 2 - Prayer Team Meeting, 1 p.m. at the BEBA Office
- July 2 - Rebuild Ministry Team Meeting, 7 p.m. at the BEBA Office
- July 3 - Independence Day Holiday! BEBA Office Closed
- July 4 - Independence Day!
- July 13 - Executive Board Meeting, 10:30 a.m. at South Harriman Baptist Church
- July 20-24 - Journey Camp for Kids at Carson Springs, Newport (children who have completed 3rd - 6th grades)
- July 24 - Fish Fry! 6 p.m. at Union Baptist Church in Wartburg

Remember in prayer our churches without pastors:

Caney Ford, Coal Hill, Crab Orchard, Riggs Chapel, First Baptist Rockwood, South Harriman

Youth Revival!

Monday, July 13- Friday, July 17
6:30- 8:30 p.m. (EST)

Friendship Baptist Church,
1987 Westel Road,
Rockwood, TN

Bro. Carl Armes is planning an Autumn Leaf Railroad Excursion for October 10, 2009 and has invited all the associational churches to participate. A letter of explanation was mailed to each church. The cost of the day will be \$80 per person which includes a meal in the dining car, plus \$15 each for a motor coach trip from South Harriman Baptist Church to Chattanooga, where the excursion begins. For more information, call Bro. Carl at 865.354.0626 or 865.394.2553. This sounds like an enjoyable trip for all ages.

Navajo News

Charlie Jones and his wife Brenda, from Union Baptist Church in Wartburg, have recently committed to a three month call to work on the Navajo Indian Reservation in New Mexico. They will leave in early July and return in late September. This ministry is in connection with our five year partnership with Rev. Mike Helton and Vision Ministries. Please put Charlie and Brenda on your prayer lists as they will be going to an area with great needs. In many places there is no water or utilities, poverty is the norm, alcohol and drug abuse is rampant and the spiritual needs are everywhere. Among their responsibilities will be supervising the distribution of food and clothing, cutting firewood for the winter, digging and building outside toilets, and of course trying to spread the gospel in every way possible. Efforts are in the making for a late summer mission trip from Big Emory to help with some of their greatest needs. We will need a team of 6-12 people. Be thinking and praying about it. You may contact Charlie by calling 423.346.6832 or call the BEBA office.

If you have church news that you would like in the next BEBA newsletter, we need to have it in the office on Monday, June 15, 2009.